

The effectiveness of juvenile rehabilitation institutions in changing juvenile delinquency behavior: the case of Irambo Approved School

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Behavior rehabilitation through approved schools though relatively old in Tanzania has not been critically investigated to determine its effectiveness in bringing about change in behavior. The purpose of this study was to analyse and examine the effectiveness of behavioural rehabilitation programmes in changing juvenile delinquency behavior through Irambo approved school. Four objectives guided the analysis: to analyse the behavioural modification process in each of the behavioural rehabilitation programmes implemented at Irambo approved school; to explore psychosocial influence of the inputs on behavior modification of juvenile delinquents; to examine the impact of behavior modification methods and techniques on delinquents behavior rehabilitation; and to analyses delinquents' behavior change and general expectations at the end of the rehabilitation period. The modified stafflebeam's CIPP model guided the study. The study involves 25 delinquents; two officers from the Commissioner's office in Dar es Salaam: two officers from the regional Socio Welfare Office in Mbeya; and six staff members from Irambo approved school. The data were subjected to frequency and content analysis technique. The majority of juvenile delinquents were dropout teenagers living with single parents in urban areas. Causes of delinquency included lack of physiological needs, psychological support and unsatisfied aspirations. The school programmes aimed at enabling juvenile delinquents to be self-reliance. Juvenile delinquents gained self-esteem, confidence and respect lost through lack of parental love. Insecurity and imprisonment. Delinquents changed for the better to become obedient, self-controlled and hardworking individuals. Juvenile delinquents aspirations to join secondary school and VETA were raised. It was recommended that: the government should establish an approved school for girl's delinquents; provide delinquents with capital resources as they graduate; vocational training should be provided to all juvenile delinquents; work experience programme should be introduced; seminars and refresher courses should be organized for Social Welfare Official and staff; and the school should be equipped with adequate resources. More studies should be done to ascertain the effectiveness of other delinquent treatment measures such as remand homes, juvenile court, corporal punishment and probation.